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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05827 140301Z

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ACTION SS 25

INFO SSO 00, NSCE 00, /025 W

O 131132Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6761
INFO CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Susan Gaulen DATE 12/23/81
EXEMPTION CATEGORY (1) (3)
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

S E C R E T SAIGON 5827

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 5821

1. I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER KY FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR THIS MORNING, SEPTEMBER 13.

2. SINCE I HAD NOT SEEN KY FOR A REAL TALK SINCE THE ELECTIONS I CONGRATULATED HIM ON THE EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION OF THEM AND THE VERY FINE PERFORMANCE BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION. I SAID THAT THE PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF ELECTIONS IN WAR-TIME CONDITIONS IN VIET-NAM WAS INDEED A REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT AND NOTED THAT BOTH THE AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN OBSERVERS HAD GENERALLY HAD A VERY FAVORABLE VIEW OF

(1)

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 5827 S E C R E T
THEM. KY SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THIS AND WAS PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE SECURITY

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MEASURES TAKEN TO PERMIT CAMPAIGNING AND VOTING. I REMARKED THAT GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY COMPLIMENTARY REGARDING THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE RVNAF, AND THE CARRYING OUT OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ELECTION SECURITY.

3. I THEN SAID THAT SINCE THE ELECTION WAS NOW OVER, WE WERE WATCHING CAREFULLY THE PROCESS OF ASSEMBLY REVIEW AND VALIDATION OF THE ELECTIONS. SO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLETO OBSERVE, COMPLAINTS SEEM TO BE LACKING IN SUB-STANCE. I ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF DIS-GRUNTLED AND POOR LOSERS SHOULD ACT IRRESPONSIBLY IN THE ASSEMBLY AND SEEK TO OVERTHROW THE ELECTION RESULTS. I EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE A VERY ADVERSE EFFECT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, AND THAT POLITICAL LEADERS AND ELEMENTS HERE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT US SUPPORT CANNOT JUST BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. IF AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN DONE TO BRING ABOUT SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS, THE SITUATION WERE PERMITTED TO FALL APART, THE EFFECT IN THE US WOULD BE

PAGE 3 RUMJI 5827 S E C R E T
VERY SERIOUS INDEED.

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[redacted]

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KY SAID HE HAD REPLIED THAT "WE DONT HAVE COUPS HERE ANY
MORE, THAT IS OUTDATED," AND HUNG UP.

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 5827 S E C R E T
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THESE MATTERS PERSONALLY, SINCE THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT THAN THERE IS MANPOWER AVAILABLE.

7. KY COMPLAINED THAT HE IS UNABLE TO GET THIEU TO ACT ON CRITICAL MATTERS. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE ACTION AGREED BETWEEN THEM AND WESTMORELAND, KOMER AND MYSELF, TO REORGANIZE THE RVNAF AND TO RETIRE OFFICERS FOR CORRUPTION AND INCOMPETENCE. HE SAID THIEU HAS STILL NOT AGREED TO TAKE ACTION WITH RESPECT TO SOME OFFICERS INCLUDING SOME GENERAL OFFICERS SINCE HE WANTS TO RETAIN THEIR SUPPORT. KY SAID INEVITABLY SOME LEADERS ARE DIS-

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8. COMMENT : GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS SEEING THIEU THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL BE ABLE TO PURSUE SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS WITH HIM. ALTHOUGH IT IS EVIDENT FROM BOTH THIEU'S AND KY'S COMMENTS THAT THERE ARE REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM AND THAT THEY TNVE NOT BEEN GETTTING TOGETHER TO SLVE THEM, I BELIEVE THAT THE PICTURE IS NOT AS GLOOMY AS PORTRAYED BY THE MORE EXCITED AND SELF-INTERESTED MEMBER OF THEIR ENTOURAGES. THE SITUATION WILL OBVIOUSLY CALL FOR PATIENT AND STEADY WORK WITH BOTH THIEU AND KY TO GET THEM TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE MANY PROBLEMS THAT FACE THEM.

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